

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 2, 2016  
AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 28, 2016

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1386**

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**Introduced by Senator Wolk**

February 19, 2016

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An act to add Section 9001.5 to the Public Resources Code, relating to resource conservation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1386, as amended, Wolk. Resource conservation: working and natural lands.

The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 designates the State Air Resources Board as the state agency charged with monitoring and regulating sources of emissions of greenhouse gases. The act requires all state agencies to consider and implement strategies to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

This bill would declare it to be the policy of the state that the protection and management of natural and working lands, as defined, is a key strategy in meeting the state's greenhouse gas reduction goals, and would require all relevant state agencies, departments, boards, and commissions to consider this policy when revising, adopting, or establishing policies, regulations, expenditures, or grant criteria relating to the protection and management of natural and working lands.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     *SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the*  
2     *following:*

3     *(a) To address the critical issue of global warming, California*  
4     *is working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The conservation*  
5     *and management of natural and working lands has been identified*  
6     *as a key strategy to meet greenhouse gas emissions reduction*  
7     *goals.*

8     *(b) Natural and working lands store considerable amounts of*  
9     *carbon. Terrestrial ecosystems store 2,100 gigatons of carbon.*  
10    *Natural and working lands are unique in that they can actively*  
11    *remove carbon from the atmosphere and store or sequester that*  
12    *carbon in, above, and below the ground.*

13    *(c) Promoting the conservation and management of natural and*  
14    *working lands will result in a variety of outcomes that contribute*  
15    *to carbon sequestration, including, but not limited to, conservation*  
16    *and agricultural easements on natural and working lands, no- or*  
17    *low-till agriculture, cover cropping on agricultural lands, the*  
18    *restoration of degraded lands, including the restoration of*  
19    *vegetation, and agency decisions that avoid the loss of natural and*  
20    *working lands.*

21    *(d) The conservation and management of natural and working*  
22    *lands to promote carbon sequestration will also deliver important*  
23    *additional public benefits, including, but not limited to, the*  
24    *protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat, parks and open*  
25    *spaces, and recreational and economic opportunities, the*  
26    *production of food and fiber, the improvement of air and water*  
27    *quality, and flood protection.*

28    ~~SECTION 1.~~

29    *SEC. 2. Section 9001.5 is added to the Public Resources Code,*  
30    *to read:*

31    9001.5. (a) It is the policy of the state that the protection and  
32    management of natural and working lands is a key strategy in  
33    meeting the state's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals. The  
34    protection and management of those lands can result in the removal  
35    of carbon from the atmosphere and the sequestration of carbon in,  
36    above, and below the ground.

37    (b) The protection and management of natural and working  
38    lands provides multiple public benefits, including, but not limited

1 to, assisting with adaptation to the impacts of climate change,  
2 improving water quality and quantity, flood protection, ensuring  
3 healthy fish and wildlife populations, and providing recreational  
4 and economic benefits.

5 (c) All relevant state agencies, including the Natural Resources  
6 Agency, the Department of Food and Agriculture, and the  
7 California Environmental Protection Agency, and their respective  
8 departments, boards, and commissions, shall consider the policy  
9 set forth in subdivision (a) when revising, adopting, or establishing  
10 policies, regulations, expenditures, or grant criteria relating to the  
11 protection and management of natural and working lands.

12 (d) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the  
13 following meanings:

14 (1) “Working lands” means lands used for farming, grazing, or  
15 forest production purposes.

16 (2) “Natural lands” means lands consisting of wetlands,  
17 watersheds, wildlands, or wildlife habitat, or used for recreational  
18 purposes such as parks, urban and community forests, trails,  
19 greenbelts, and other open-space land. For purposes of this  
20 paragraph, “parks” includes, but is not limited to, areas that provide  
21 public green space.